

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS DIVISION 20. VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

1. Amend Section 2065 to read:

§ 2065. Criteria for Evaluation of Equivalent Programs.

In lieu of a two (2) year curriculum in animal health technology, completion of a program or curriculum in compliance with the following criteria is deemed to be “the equivalent thereof as determined by the board,” pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code:

- (a) The academic instruction shall consist of:
 - (1) a minimum of 600 hours of classroom instruction, and
 - (2) minimum of 200 hours of clinical instruction.
 - (3) an externship consisting of at least 200 hours.
- (b) The curriculum shall include the following coursework:
 - (1) Principles of anatomy and physiology,
 - (2) Biology and chemistry,
 - (3) Applied mathematics,
 - (4) Orientation to the vocation of veterinary technology,
 - (5) Ethics and jurisprudence in veterinary medicine,
 - (6) Anesthetic nursing and monitoring including anesthetic evaluation, induction, and maintenance. It shall also include care and use of anesthetic and monitoring equipment,
 - (7) Animal husbandry, including restraint, species and breed identification, sex determination and sanitation,
 - (8) Animal nutrition and feeding,
 - (9) Client communication,
 - (10) Dental care of companion and laboratory animals including prophylaxis and extractions,
 - (11) Diseases and nursing management of companion, food, and laboratory animals,
 - (12) Emergency and critical care nursing,
 - (13) Laboratory procedures to include clinical biochemistry, cytology, hematology, immunology, basic microbiology, parasitology, and urine analysis testing.
 - (14) Imaging to include radiography, basic endoscopy and ultrasound principles,
 - (15) Medical terminology,
 - (16) Medical office management,
 - (17) Basic necropsy techniques including specimen collection and handling,
 - (18) Pharmacology,
 - (19) Surgical nursing and assisting including instrumentation, suturing, bandaging and splinting.

~~(c) Each student shall be supervised during the externship by a veterinarian who is located at the site of the externship.~~

(c) Each student shall be supervised during the externship or clinical rotation by a veterinarian or registered veterinary technician who is located at the site of the externship or clinical rotation. The school or institution shall have a written agreement with the site that specifies the expectations and responsibilities of the parties. A staff member of the school or institution shall visit the site prior to beginning the externship or clinical rotation relationship.

(d) The library facilities of the institution must be adequate for the conducting of the program.

(e) The physical plant and equipment used for instruction in the academic teaching shall be adequate for the purposes intended.

(f)(1) The faculty shall include a California licensed veterinarian employed by the institution as an advisor, administrator, or instructor. Instructors shall include but need not be limited to, a California registered veterinarian technicians. If there is any change in the faculty, the board must be immediately notified.

(2) Instructors shall be knowledgeable, current, skillful, and possess at least two years of experience in performing or teaching in the specialized area in which they are teaching. Each instructor shall have or currently be receiving training in current teaching methods. Each instructor shall have a daily lesson plan, which correlates the theory and practice of the subject.

(3) An approved program shall have a director who meets the requirements of subdivision (f)(2) and who shall hold a current active California license as a veterinarian or registration as an RVT. The director shall have a minimum of three years experience as a veterinarian or RVT. This shall include one year of experience in teaching, administration, or clinical supervision or a combination thereof within the last five years. The director shall have completed or be receiving course work in administration.

(4) In the absence of a director an approved program may appoint an interim director. The interim director shall meet the requirements of (f)(3), except that the interim director may have applied for, but not yet have received licensure or registration. An approved program shall not have an interim director for a period exceeding eighteen months.

(g) The number of students enrolled shall be at a ratio to the number of faculty and size of the facilities which is not detrimental to the quality of education at the institution, but in any event, no more than a ratio of 10-1 students in lab classes.

(h) All students admitted shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(i) The program or curriculum shall be part of an institution which is approved by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, or the State of California Department of Education, or in the case of an institution located outside of this state, accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education.

(j) It shall be in compliance with the laws regulating the practice of veterinary medicine and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

(k) Any instruction covered under subsection (a)(3) shall be in a facility registered by the board.

~~(l) The program shall provide all prospective students, prior to enrollment, with literature which discloses the school's pass rate on the board's registered veterinary technician examination during the two-year period immediately preceding the student's proposed enrollment and a description of the requirements for registration as a registered veterinary technician.~~

(l) The program shall provide all prospective students, prior to enrollment, with literature which discloses the school's pass rate for first time candidates and the state average pass rate for first time candidates on the board's registered veterinary technician examination during the two-year period immediately preceding the student's proposed enrollment and a description of the requirements for registration as a registered veterinary technician.

~~(m) All programs shall provide all prospective students prior to enrollment information regarding transferability of the units they receive in the courses that they take. Said information shall be posted at all times in a conspicuous location at the school facility so that there is ample opportunity for it to be read by the veterinary technology students.~~

(m) All programs shall provide each prospective veterinary technology student prior to enrollment written information regarding transferability of the units they receive in the courses that they take. Said information shall be posted at all times in a conspicuous location at the school facility so that there is ample opportunity for it to be read by the veterinary technology students.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

2. Amend Section 2065.7 to read:

§ 2065.7. Inspections.

- (a) Where either provisional or full approval has been granted, the Board shall conduct subsequent inspections every 4 years, notwithstanding other provisions of this section.
- (b) The board may conduct an on-site inspection of an institution which offers a registered veterinary technician curriculum in accordance with section 2065 where:
 - (1) It believes the institution has substantially deviated from the standards for approval,
 - (2) ~~The institution's graduates, during the preceding four examinations, have a pass rate of less than 40 percent on each of the board's registered veterinary technician examinations, or~~
 - (2) For a period of two years the approved program's yearly average pass rate on the registration examination falls below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates for the registered veterinary technician examination,
 - (3) There has been change of program director in charge of the curriculum for training registered veterinary technicians.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

3. Amend Section 2065.8 to read:

§ 2065.8. Probationary Approval. Probation

~~If at any time the board determines that a curriculum has deviated from the standards for approval, the board may, after identifying for the institution the areas in which it has deviated and after giving the institution due notice and an opportunity to be heard, withdraw its approval of the institution or place the institution on probation for a prescribed period of time not to exceed 12 calendar months. During the period of probation, the institution shall be subject to special monitoring. The conditions for probation, may include the submission of periodic reports as prescribed by the board, and special visits by authorized representatives of the board to determine progress toward total compliance. If, at the end of the probationary period, the institution has not taken steps to eliminate the cause or causes for its probation to the satisfaction of the board, the board may revoke the institution's approval. The board may extend the probationary period for good cause.~~

(a) The board may place an institution on probation for a prescribed period of time not to exceed 2 years, in the following circumstances:

- (1) The board determines that an approved program is not maintaining the standards for approval required by the board.
- (2) For a period of two years the approved program's yearly average pass rate for first time

candidates who have taken the registration examination falls below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates who have taken the registered veterinary technician examination during the same time period.

(3) The use of false or misleading advertising.

(4) Aiding or abetting in any acts that are in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.

(b) During the period of probation, the institution shall be subject to special monitoring. The conditions for probation may include the submission of periodic reports as prescribed by the board and special visits by authorized representatives of the board to determine progress toward total compliance.

(c) The board may extend the probationary period for good cause.

(d) The institution shall notify in writing all current and prospective students and employees of the probationary status.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

4. Adopt New Section 2065.8.A to read:

2065.8.A. Withdrawal of Approval

The board may withdraw its approval of any school or institution in the following circumstances:

(a) The employment of fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in obtaining approval.

(b) If, at the end of a probationary period, the institution has not eliminated the cause or causes for its probation to the satisfaction of the board.

(c) The board determines that the institution has engaged in activities that are a danger to the health and safety of its students, staff, or animals.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

5. Adopt New Section 2065.8.B to read:

2065.8.B. Procedures for Probation or Withdrawal of Approval

Prior to taking any action to place a school or institution on probation or withdrawing of the board's approval, the board shall provide the school or institution due notice and an opportunity to be heard.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

6. Adopt new Section 2065.8.C to read:

2065.8.C. Director Notification

(a) Every approved program shall be required to notify the board in writing of the departure of the director or interim director within 15 working days, and shall notify the board in writing of the appointment of any director or interim director within 15 working days.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.